

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIGIN SS-25

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AF/S:DPETTERSON
S/S-O:AOTTO
AF:WBEDMONDSON
D:DLAMB

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 184561 TOSEC 080151

EXDIS, FROM MOOSE, KINGSTON FOR AMB. YOUNG ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RH, UK, PDEV

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: MEETINGS WITH MUZOREWA
AND NKOMO (S/S 7720555)

1. SINCE THE PRESIDENT IS ANXIOUS THAT YOU REMAIN IN
LONDON IN ORDER TO MEET WITH NYERERE THERE ON AUGUST 13,
IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO SEE NKOMO ON THE SAME
DAY IN WASHINGTON AS HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED
MUZOREWA HAS BEEN INVITED TO LONDON BY OWEN AND WILL
MEET WITH HIM WHILE YOU ARE THERE. HE HAS ALSO ASKED
FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOU.

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2. THERE WOULD BE DISADVANTAGES IN YOUR MEETING WITH
EITHER OR BOTH OF THEM. NKOMO IS PRONE TO EXTENSIVE AND
BOMBASTIC PRESS CONFERENCES. THERE IS DANGER THAT HE,
OR MUZOREWA, WOULD ATTACK THE SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS OR
THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THEM, BEFORE WE COULD GET A
CHANCE TO PRESENT THE PLAN TO THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS.

ALSO, THE AGREED PLAN OF ACTION WOULD ARGUE AGAINST YOUR PRESENTING TO EITHER OF THEM THE PROPOSALS IN ANY GREAT DETAIL. (I AM AWARE THAT THERE MIGHT BE SLIPPAGE ON THIS POINT AND A GREAT DEAL OF THE PLAN MIGHT LEAK EVEN BEFORE THE POSSIBLE MEETINGS.) BY REMAINING CIRCUMSPECT,

HOWEVER, WE MAY OPEN OURSELVES TO LATER CHARGES THAT WE HAD PURPOSELY AND NEFARIOUSLY CONCEALED ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FROM THE NATIONALIST LEADERS.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE ARE COMPELLING REASONS TO MEET WITH NKOMO AND MUZOREWA. THE NATIONALISTS ARE SENSITIVE TO ATTEMPTS BY US-UK TO AVOID DEALING WITH THEM DIRECTLY BY OPERATING INSTEAD THROUGH THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS. SCRATCHING YOUR MEETING WITH NKOMO MIGHT RAISE SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT HOW SINCERE WE ARE ABOUT KEEPING HIM IN THE PICTURE.

4. RECOMMENDATION: ON BALANCE, I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT YOU MEET WITH MUZOREWA IN LONDON AND AUTHORIZE US TO APPROACH NKOMO WITH THE IDEA RE-SCHEDULING HIS APPOINTMENT WITH YOU FOR AUGUST 15. IF NKOMO CANNOT CHANGE HIS PLANS, THEN WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT HE MEET WITH WARREN CHRISTOPHER ON THE 13TH.

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DISAPPROVE

DRAFTED:AF/S:JDAVIDOW - AUTHORIZED:AF:RMOOSE

CLEARANCE:
AF/S:DKPETTERSON
AF:WBEDMONDSON
D:DLAMB

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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